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UNCLAS TAIPEI 003050

SIPDIS

STATE FOR EB/TPP/ABT/ATP/JJACANIN
STATE ALSO FOR EB/ESC/TFS AND EAP/RSP/TC

STATE PLEASE PASS USTR, USDA/FAS AND AIT/W

USTR FOR SHARON SYDOW
USDA/FAS FOR RON LORD

E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: EAGR ETRD TW
SUBJECT: RESPONSE TO REQUEST FOR CUBAN SUGAR ASSURANCES
- FY 2005

REF: STATE 171566

¶11. In response to our letter to TECRO on August 12 requesting information on Taiwan's policy on purchase and re-export of Cuban sugar, we received the reply from the Board of Foreign Trade (BOFT).

¶12. Below is the text of BOFT response from Director General Huang Chih-peng.

¶13. Begin text.

Your office's letter addressed to TECRO of August 12, 2004, requesting a written verification that Taiwan does not import Cuban sugar for re-export to the United States, was forwarded to this Bureau for reply.

Let me start by stating that this Bureau is delighted to hear that the United States government has granted Taiwan the tariff-rate quota of 12,636 metric tons of raw cane sugar for the period October 1, 2004-September 30, 2005. Please rest assured that we know the United States prohibits the importation of Cuban sugar into the United States. We will take appropriate measures to guarantee that your regulations are not violated.

For your information, under Taiwan's current administration system, an import permit would still be required for importing any merchandise from Cuba, including any form of sugar. According to our statistics, Taiwan has never imported sugar or sugar products from Cuba in the past. We would also like to affirm that Taiwan will not import Cuban sugar for re-export to the United States.

Moreover, as Taiwan Sugar Corporation is the sole manufacturer of sugar in Taiwan, we can also affirm that Taiwan Sugar Corporation will continue to be the certifying authority. Attached please find a copy of the statement from Taiwan Sugar Corporation which certifies that they only export sugar of Taiwan origin to the United States and do not import Cuban sugar for re-export to the United States.

Please feel free to contact us again if you have any further questions.

End text.

PAAL